Amendments to the Specification:

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3 as indicated:

--The present invention relates to drug delivery systems and, more particularly, to a ~~suture, graft, or graft/suture combination~~ suture that can deliver biologically active ingredients in order to inhibit neointimal tissue proliferation in the ~~prevention~~ reduction of restenosis.--

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13 as indicated:

--The present invention seeks to deliver such pharmacological treatment directly from the ~~suture, the graft, or a suture/graft combination~~ suture.--

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17 as indicated:

--In accordance with the present invention, a therapeutic agent is delivered to the site of arterial or vessel injury by a ~~suture, graft, or suture/graft combination~~ suture. In one embodiment of the invention, a suture fabricated from a polymer material such as polypropylene or PTFE, contains the therapeutic agent within its reservoir, and then osmotically delivers the agent through its pores to the injury. In a second embodiment of the invention, the suture is coated with an active ingredient that is time released into the sutured area. Such an active ingredient, e.g., taxol, rapamycin, and derivates thereof, inhibits the smooth muscle cell migration (SMC).--

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 21 as indicated:

--It is an object of this invention to provide a ~~suture, graft, or suture/graft combination~~ suture that functions as a drug delivery system.--

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 25 as indicated:

--It is another object of the present invention to provide a ~~suture, graft, or suture/graft combination~~ suture that prevents or reduces smooth muscle cell proliferation (SMC) in the cell walls of the area of vessel injury.--

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 4 as indicated:

--It is a further object of this invention to provide a ~~suture, graft, or suture/graft combination~~ suture that delivers a biological agent without causing any adverse body reactions.--

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 11 as indicated:

--Generally speaking, the invention features a ~~suture, graft, or suture/graft combination~~ suture that functions as a drug delivery system. In one embodiment of the invention, a suture fabricated from a polymer material incorporates the therapeutic agent within its pores and then osmotically delivers the therapeutic agent directly to the injury. In a second embodiment of the invention, the suture is coated with an active ingredient that is time released (leaches from the coating) into the sutured area.--